

ESG Funding Allocation for HumanKind Ministries, Inc.

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Housing & Community
Services/Community
Investments Division

April 14, 2020



Background



- The City of Wichita is recognized as an entitlement city by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and receives Federal funding for community development activities.
- Specific entitlement funding sources include the Community Development Block Grant program, the HOME Investment Partnerships Program, and the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) program.



Analysis



- The ESG program provides funding to improve and operate homeless shelters, rapidly re-house families and individuals experiencing homelessness, and prevent families and individuals from becoming homeless.
- In addition to the City's 2019-2020 annual funding allocation of \$238,128, the City will receive \$850,376 in additional ESG funding authorized by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES Act).



Analysis



- ESG funding authorized by the CARES Act must be used to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19) among individuals and families who are homeless and to support additional homeless assistance and homelessness prevention activities to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19.



Analysis



- HumanKind Ministries, Inc. (HumanKind) has requested ESG funding in the amount of \$60,000 in order to continue operation of the organization's emergency winter shelter, through the month of April, 2020
- The emergency winter shelter is a no-barrier shelter for adult individuals, and offers separate facilities for men and women.
- The shelter normally operates daily, from 5:00 PM to 8:00 AM the next day, during the harsh winter months.



Analysis



- During the month of April, normal shelter activities will be modified in order to operate on a 24-hour basis, with meals and shower and laundry services offered.
- HumanKind will work with health clinics in order to serve individuals who become ill and will offer isolation areas.
- Up to 90 individuals will be served between the two facilities with social distancing practices in place.
- The proposed budget includes staffing, sanitizing and cleaning supplies, and personal protection equipment.



CoC COVID-19 homeless response



- Expanding shelter capacity while maintaining social distancing & creating isolation spaces.
- Coordinating testing with Sedgwick Co. Health Dept.
- Established CoC action Team in partnership with Mental Health Associates & Substance Abuse Center of Kansas funded with CoC Supportive Services grant funding
 - Providing case management while awaiting test results
 - Delivering meals to homeless in isolation
 - Received 242 cots and 350 blankets from Red Cross



City COVID-19 homeless response



- \$60k in CA-ESG is funding HumanKind's winter shelter through April 30th.
- HCSD & Fire Marshall evaluated the old downtown library for possible use to shelter and quarantine the homeless.
 - This option was later eliminated.
- Negotiating a contract with United Way to administer motel vouchers for homeless awaiting test results or those testing positive.



City COVID-19 homeless response



- The City's Housing Choice Voucher program continues to process the homeless referrals under the limited referral based homeless preference.
- The City/County Housing First Program continues to house chronically homeless individuals.
- HCSD is conferring with Sedgwick County and the CoC to determine community needs and consider additional programs/projects to be funded with the CARES Act funds.



Financial Considerations



- There is no impact to the General Fund.
- ESG funding the City will receive through the CARES Act will be utilized to cover expenses related to this activity.



Recommendation



- It is recommended that the City Council approve the ESG funding allocation in the amount of \$60,000 and authorize the necessary signatures.



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